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Partin Mistrial Declared; He'll Aid Hoffa Parole Bid

BUTTE, Mont. (AP) — Edward Grady Partin, a Louisiana Teamsters union official whose federal conspiracy trial ended in a mistrial, says he will try to help James R. Hoffa win parole from prison.

"I've informed my attorneys and the prosecution that I'll go to Washington Aug. 23 and testify in favor of Hoffa," Partin said yesterday. "He was wronged and things should be made right."

He offered no elaboration.

Partin made the comment after a federal jury here said it could not agree on a verdict in Partin's trial on five counts of criminal conspiracy in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act.

THE GOVERNMENT charged that Partin had used strong-arm extortion in an attempt to gain control of the cement industry in Baton Rouge, La.

Hoffa, former president of the Teamsters union, is serving a 13-year sentence in the federal penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pa., on convictions for mail fraud and jury tampering.

Partin was a key government witness in Hoffa's jury-tampering trial in Nashville, Tenn., in 1964.

The U.S. Board of Parole has set Aug. 20 as the date for a third bid by Hoffa to win release from prison. Previous attempts by Hoffa to gain parole were rejected in January, 1970, and March, 1971.

Partin, 46, is business agent for the Teamsters local in Baton Rouge.

PARTIN remains free on \$25,000 bond posted shortly after he was indicted June 20, 1969. His trial was moved here on a change of venue.

During the nearly four-week long trial the government attempted to show that Partin, with Ted F. Dunham Jr., had "conspired to rape East Baton Rouge Parish and anybody else who bought ready-mix concrete."

Dunham, owner of a Baton Rouge concrete-producing firm, was convicted at an earlier trial on two of five counts of conspiracy. He is awaiting sentencing.

The defense claimed Partin took no action of any kind except in connection with legitimate union grievances.

Government attorneys said it had not been decided whether Partin would be retried.